

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 141507Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1318

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BEIRUT 13616

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR XF JO

SUBJ: INTERVIEW WITH JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN

1. IN TERSELY WORDED INTERVIEW PUBLISHED NOV 13 IN BEIRUT WEEKLY AS SAYYAD, KING HUSSEIN COMMENTED ON PROGRESS OF ME SETTLEMENT EFFORT, PLO-JORDANIAN RELATIONS AND APPEALS FOR ARAB UNITY. HE SAID HE HAD NOT EXPECTED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LATEST ME VISIT TO RESULT IN ANYTHING NEW "BECAUSE PLO IS NOW SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE (PALESTINIAN) QUESTION ON BOTH ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS." HE ADDED THAT JORDAN NO LONGER HAS ANY DIRECT ROLE TO PLAY IN NEGOTIATING WEST BANK DISENGAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES.

2. HUSSEIN DECLINED SPECULATE RE NATURE OR OBJECTIVES OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. ASKED ABOUT JORDAN'S ATTITUDE RE PROPOSAL FOR JOINT ARAB DEL TO ATTEND GENEVA CONFERENCE, HE REPLIED SIMPLY THAT HE HAD ALWAYS FAVORED "UNITY OF ARAB RANKS." RE IDEA OF ESTABLISHING FEDERATION BETWEEN EGYPT, SYRIA, JORDAN AND A PALESTINIAN
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STATE, HUSSEIN NOTED: "ARAB UNITY IS OBJECTIVE OF EVERY ARAB,

BUT (SUBJECT OF THE PROPOSED FEDERATION) IS PREMATURE."

3. HUSSEIN DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT 'ARAFAT MIGHT VISIT AMMAN, NOTING "THERE MUST BE DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN JORDAN AND PLO OR WHATEVER OTHER PALESTINIAN ENTITY MAY EMERGE IN FUTURE." HE ALSO EMPHASIZED NEED FOR CONTINUED COORDINATION BETWEEN PLO, SYRIA, JORDAN AND EGYPT.

4. ACCORDING TO HUSSEIN, JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT HAS EFFECTIVELY BEEN ELIMINATED, ALTHOUGH SOME "SENSITIVITIES" REMAIN--E.G., OVER QUESTION OF 100 PALESTINIANS IN EAST BANK PRISONS. (KING MENTIONED THAT THEIR FATE WOULD BE DETERMINED BY SPECIAL GOVT COMMITTEE.) HUSSEIN ANTICIPATED ESTABLISHMENT OF "BROTHERLY" RELATIONS WITH PROEJECTED PALESTINIAN STATE AND EMPHASIZED JORDAN WILL CONTINUE PAY SALARIES OF WEST BANK CIVIL SERVANTS "UNTIL THIS IS NO LONGER NECESSARY." HE DECLINED ELABORATE SPECIFIC MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO REORGANIZE JORDANIAN GOVT OTHER THAN TO STATE THAT REVISION OF CONSTITUTION IS FIRST STEP. RE PALESTINIANS NOW RESIDING ON EAST BANK, KING SUGGESTED THEY MIGHT BE ABLE OPT FOR JORDANIAN CITIZENSHIP "WITHOUT...AFFECTING RIGHT OF ANY PALESTINIAN TO HIS PALESTINIAN LAND."

5. HUSSEIN ADMITTED POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER WAR WITH ISRAEL, BUT POINTED OUT THAT JORDAN DOES NOT POSSESS "GEOGRAPHICAL DEPTH" IN WHICH TO FIGHT DUE TO ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF WEST BANK. HE STATED THAT GOJ'S MAIN CONCERN AT PRESENT IS TO STRENGTHEN JORDAN'S ARMED FORCES AND PROVIDE THEM WITH MODERN WEAPONRY. ASKED IF JAA WOULD TAKE PART IN RENEWED HOSTILITIES, KING REPLIED "I CANNOT SAY IN ADVANCE."
GODLEY

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